

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
July 21, 2015**

**Budget Committee Members Present**

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Brian Lapham, Vice-Chairman  
Phil Bean, Board of Selectman Representative (left 8:20)  
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative SAU 90  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
State Representative David Woods  
Nicholas Bridle  
Scott Blair  
Glenn Farrell  
Timothy Citizen Jones  
Sunny Kravitz  
Stephen LaBranche  
Michael Pierce

Absent (excused)  
Michael Plouffe  
James O'Loughlin

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee members made self-introductions.

**Correspondence Review**

- Request for outside counsel sent via email to all Selectman, Town Manager & Town Counsel. Chairman Latimer said no response has yet been received. Selectman Bean said Town Council will be responding.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> request to Town Clerk for response on attrition still has received no response according to the Chair.
- DRA response to Bud Com to delay decision to grant a transfer of funds as proposed by the BOS: DRA rejected BOS request, language coincided with previous Bud Com discussion and concerns.
- Chairman Latimer asked Selectman Bean if he knew any more about the Federal Reimbursement schedule. He responded "His situational awareness was not up to speed. He also said as of the June Financials, he had requested a snow breakdown be presented to the BOS by Kristi Pulliam at the next BOS meeting.

- Chairman Latimer requested any questions be sent to the Chair and she would collectively forward them to Kristi Pulliam regarding budget.

## GOAL SETTING 2016

- Chairman Latimer reviewed election history & strategies saying voters appear to want a tight budget and control through Warrant Articles on other expenditures.
- Steve LaBranche said information from the Assessor's office is needed relative to increased revenues. We need to know how much has been added to the tax rolls before we start to spend.
- Timothy Citizen Jones stated "additional income does not equate appropriations. If a tax base is broadened, taxes should go down too."
- Broad discussion was opened by Chairman Latimer to possibly work cooperatively with the Selectman to put forward a \$1,000,000 Road Improvement Warrant Article. Some of the points raised included:
  - A need for funding to survive changes in future elected Boards.
  - Perspective that the lines of a budget are only temporary and can be moved at the discretion of the BOS.
  - Pulling as many funding sources as possible into the Warrant Article.
  - Expression that many items in the budget get funded, but never get done - like sidewalks.
  - Concerns about "special interests" pulling line items out of the budget.
  - Voters lament over too many Warrant Articles
  - Any investment in an asset meant to last more than 5 years is a capital improvement and should be in a Warrant Article and not in the Budget. Also noted that presently the CIP is not funded.
  - Cost of Road Improvement is a capital improvement and should be funded in a warrant article.
  - Unclear where all road funding currently resides in the Budget.
  - Possible use of Trust Funds and NH State Highway funds to create a Highway Revolving fund.
  - Selectman Bean said he would carry this discussion back to the BOS.

## SNOW STABILIZATION FUND

- Discussion of the merits of separate funding for snow stabilization, a suggestion from DRA.
- Suggestion from Selectman Bean to change Snow to Weather.
- Weather Insurance was discussed as a possibility to be considered jointly by the Bud Com, BOS, & Finance Director.
- **Motion by Timothy Citizen Jones seconded by Glenn Farrell** to contact the DRA to get more information on the Snow Stabilization Fund Warrant Article and to acquire from the Town of Hampton 5 years of actual expenses for snow and ice abatement. **(VOTE yes -13 No-0)**

## SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

- School Representative Jerry Znoj reported that the June financials were not closed out yet but were at 99% budget accuracy.
- Request from the Chairman Latimer to receive final financials when complete for distribution to the Bud Com Members.

### **HAMPTON BEACH PRECINCT REPORT**

- Report delivered by Precinct Representative Bob Ladd and Precinct Treasurer Stephen LaBranche stating that 2<sup>nd</sup> payment to the Precinct from the Town was delayed but approved by the Precinct to prevent borrowing.

### **SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

- None given. Selectman Bean left at 8:20 prior to report being given.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Secretarial Position will be posted with a change to not mandate attendance at the meeting. Secretary will be able to do the minutes from the broadcast and Bud Com will do a roll call vote than can be heard.
- Summer schedule will take a break in August. Approved by consensus.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Records Request will be added to the meeting agenda going forward.
- Mike Pierce requested an explanation of Assessing Dept. overspending line by \$39K Chairman requested Mr. Pierce forward his question to her by email and she would forward to the Finance Director.
- IT Sub Committee formed: Timothy Citizen Jones, Chair with members Michael Pierce and Nicholas Bridle.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by Stephen LBranch, seconded by Michael Pierce.**

**(Vote – yes 12 No 0)**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Eileen Latimer, Chairman